

# **John Jones Thomas and Myra Amanda Clark Thomas 1850-1950 Centennial Biography**

John Jones Thomas, rancher, farmer and stock rancher, was born January 10, 1852 in Salt Lake City. While still an infant, he came to Lehi with his parents. Daniel Stillwell and Martha Paine Jones Thomas. He was the youngest of 11 siblings.

He was educated in the early schools of Lehi, and was always a great reader, possessing many complete works of great American writers.

Mr. Thomas was keenly interested in community life and activities. He was public minded and could be depended on for assistance in all community projects. For many years, Independence Day and Pioneer Day were held at the invitation under the numerous trees surrounding the Thomas home. He glorified in being marshal of the day. He held such public offices as County Commission of Juab County, deputy sheriff, and precinct justice of the peace.

Mr. Thomas owned and managed a large ranch at Fish Springs. He controlled all of the water holes and springs for a radius of forty miles in all directions. He was respected by the men who worked for him as well as by everyone else. Fish Springs was conveniently located on the old overland route and the Thomas ranch was of necessity a chief stopping place for travelers crossing the continent. Nestled at the base of the Thomas Range (mountains named in his honor), the rambling ranch house was a welcome sight to the fifteen thousand motorists who traveled the Lincoln Highway in 1915 enroute to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. His ever-widening circle of friends returned there and again to rest and enjoy western hospitality. These friends included such celebrities as Theodore Roosevelt, William Jennings Bryan and Mark Twain.

Mr. Thomas was the owner of many blooded race horses. His children have fond memories of such racers as “Silver Tip”, “Red Bird”, “Trinket” and “Boston”.

Undoubtedly his most outstanding characteristic was his unending generosity. This thoughtfulness and consideration for others, endeared him to many. He was indeed generous for a fault, remembering the widows and orphaned children. On his return from business trips to the east, he was greeted by his children and all their playmates with eager anticipation; they knew that he always had gifts tucked away for everyone.

He married Myra Amanda Clark, who was the daughter of Davis and Myra Williams Clark, early pioneers of Lehi.

Myra Thomas was a devoted wife and mother. Of their twelve children, ten lived to maturity. The children are Myra Lenore Thomas Jones, Jerome Clark Thomas, Pearl Thomas Cutler, Victor Stillwell Thomas, Ethel Stanley Thomas Goates, Genevieve Thomas Gray, Hazel May Thomas, Isabell Thomas Timpson, baby boy, John Jay Thomas, Beulah Thomas Evans, and Myra Thomas Anderson.

Mrs. Thomas possessed a sweet singing voice. She was an excellent cook; a thrifty manager, and took pride in her needlework. An excellent rider, she had her own favorite saddle horse, which she enjoyed riding. She made a practice of attending every funeral of everyone who died in Lehi, believing such an act to be a respect due the dead.

John Jones Thomas died, April 17, 1917, and his wife, Myra Amanda Clark Thomas died January 12, 1900.